

## CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Secretary of the Board

### News Items, October

One hundred and ninety-four graduates of medical colleges and seventeen graduates of chiropody schools passed the July written examinations given by the Board of Medical Examiners.

The Department of Professional and Vocational Standards has been organized with Mr. James Collins of Long Beach, director, and Mr. Harry C. Morgan, former foreign and intelligence operator for the government during the war, as executive secretary with offices in Room 219, State Capitol Building, Sacramento.

Following true bills against five men as leaders in the fake license syndicate, State's Attorney John A. Swanson called in leading doctors to check up on medical and dental licenses of practitioners of the county. Efforts to brand Dr. H. H. Miller, recently dismissed as head of the State Department of Registration and Education, charged as leader of the fake license bureau, continued tonight. Named with Miller in the true bills are L. Mitchell Blaine, Harry Goldstine, Albert Barron, and Dr. John Torbert. Blaine, Barron, and Torbert found "customers" for Miller, it is alleged, inducing medical students who could not pass their examinations to buy licenses. Prices ranging from \$1000 to \$2400 (International News Service, dated Chicago, July 31, 1929, printed, Washington, D. C., *Herald*, August 1, 1929). Previous entry, September 1929.

According to a report from the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners, an individual giving the name of A. B. Cheatham, claiming to be the A. B. Cheatham who, for the past fifteen years is reported to have been located at Millerview, Texas, obtained a license to practice in the State of Nevada, which was recently reported revoked on the grounds that the same had been obtained on presentation of fraudulent credentials. The individual, claiming to the Nevada board that he was A. B. Cheatham, is said to be Samuel A. Cheatham. Investigation fails to disclose that he has any medical credentials. However, he has been ship surgeon sailing from the port of San Francisco.

Damages aggregating \$75,000 for automobile injuries received last February 2 are asked by Mrs. Tillie C. Randall, a 70-year-old inmate of the San Francisco Relief Home, in two Superior Court suits filed yesterday. And in one of the suits is incorporated charges that the permanently injured woman was refused aid by three hospital associations to which, she charges, she paid a monthly stipend over a period of years for the emergency in which she finally became involved. . . . In the charges she has filed against the Liberty Hospital Association, Grace Darling Hospital Association, and the International Hospital Association, the aged woman sets forth that when she applied for medical assistance as specified in her contract, she was refused. . . . Inquiries subsequent to the suits disclose that all three hospital associations are listed in the same office in the Phelan Building. . . . (San Francisco *Examiner*, September 4, 1929).

Percy Purviance, whose Berkeley chiropractic college and Berkeley chiropractic high school were ordered closed by court decision as "diploma mills," yesterday asked the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to permit him to dissect cadavers for instructional purposes at the "Golden Gate Chiropractic College and School of Physiotherapy and Psysichtherapy." Board members decided that the request for the per-

mit was a matter for the institutions' commission to worry about (*Martinez Gazette*, July 31, 1929). Previous entries December, 1925; January, February, June, July, September, October, 1926; February, 1927; March, April, July, September, 1928; January, 1929.

George (Rush) Meadows, former University of Southern California football star, attorney and ex-convict, today was sentenced by Superior Judge Charles Fricke to serve seven to twenty years in Folsom prison. He was convicted on eleven counts of grand theft of \$31,000 from the family of John R. Osborne, allegedly obtained on representations to them that he could obtain a pardon for the latter, a prisoner at Leavenworth penitentiary (Associated Press dispatch, dated Los Angeles, August 22, 1929; published in the San Francisco *Examiner*, August 23, 1929). September "News Items" mentioned Meadows as associated with Higashi in an alleged diploma mill operated in Los Angeles.

Found guilty of practicing without a physician's certificate, S. Takeda, owner of a local massage parlor, was sentenced to sixty days in the county jail by Judge Phil Hayward. It appeared from the evidence submitted that the Japanese had violated the Medical Practice Act. . . . and the judge suspended the sentence, pending Takeda's future actions (Watsonville *Pajaronian*, August 22, 1929).

Named by Mrs. L. Gonzales as the person who performed her illegal operation for a fee of \$10, Federico Afaya, thirty-nine, shoemaker and spiritualist, yesterday was arrested. . . . (Los Angeles *Illustrated Daily News*, July 31, 1929).

Conviction of petty theft in connection with asserted operation of a "diploma mill," Dr. Charles A. Cale, chiropractor, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$750 and serve ninety days in jail yesterday by Municipal Judge Caryl Sheldon. The chiropractor, who conducts the Cale Chiropractic College at 406 West Seventh Street, was found guilty by a jury in Judge Sheldon's court last week. Following his sentence yesterday, Doctor Cale gave notice he would appeal his case, and was released on \$1000 bond (Los Angeles *Examiner*, August 29, 1929; prior entry, September 1929).

Dr. R. W. Cook, 6277 Van Nuys Boulevard, reported the theft of his medical case containing a quantity of narcotics and a hypodermic set from his automobile to officials of the local police division (Burbank *Tribune*, August 7, 1929). Licentiatees are again warned against depredation by addicts. (Previous entries appear May 1927.)

Reports relate Beatrice Cary recently pleaded guilty in Santa Monica on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act, and was sentenced by Judge W. R. Garrett to sixty days in the county jail; sentence suspended for two years on condition that she no further violate the Medical Practice Act.

Trial of George Darrow, Azusa physician charged with murder in connection with the death of Mrs. Jennie Peterson, twenty-three years of age, was continued yesterday by Superior Judge Wood to September 6 next. Mrs. Peterson is asserted to have died of an illegal operation the state charges was performed by Doctor Darrow. . . . (Los Angeles *Times*, August 27, 1929).

According to the report of Special Agent Davidson, "Dr." d'Orgler, alias "Dr." de Zita, appearing at an Oakland theater, whose handbills announced him as Morocco's mystic seer, psycho-analyst. . . . "who sees all, knows all, and tells all," was found guilty in the San Francisco Police Court, September

7, 1929, and sentenced to sixty days in the county jail, such sentence being suspended on condition that he leave San Francisco on or before Tuesday, September 10. The investigator reports finding several prescriptions written by "Dr. William d'Orgler," who claims to have been licensed in Oregon but lost his license because of alleged illegal operations. However, the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners related that they find no record of such an individual.

That "Doc" G. O. de Moss, Tracy and Reno gambler, was not one of the machine gun bandits who robbed the Southern Pacific train of \$16,000 at McAvoy, Contra Costa County, on June 22, was the declaration of four passengers who confronted him in the San Jose jail, which was announced yesterday in the sheriff's office in Martinez . . . (San Francisco *Chronicle*, August 22, 1929). It is reported that George de Moss is now held in the Santa Clara County jail on an asserted charge in connection with the death of a vegetable peddler, which followed an alleged assault on the county road. According to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification, he is alleged to be Dr. George Olem de Moss, licensed in Illinois in 1914 and in Washington in 1921.

A. Dominguez, known as the "miracle man," was on September 3, 1929, found guilty in San Bernardino of violation of the Medical Practice Act, and sentence is set for September 14, 1929. Previous entries.

It is reported that Emily Foncaca on August 2, 1929, pleaded guilty in the Municipal Court, Los Angeles, on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act, and was sentenced to ninety days in the city jail; sentence suspended for two years' probationary period.

Dr. Thomas Greig, fifty-one, of 2667 Telegraph Avenue, was committed yesterday to the Ukiah State Hospital by Superior Judge J. J. Allen. He was arrested Monday, when he frightened patients in his office by flourishing a revolver, and fired two shots at Police Inspector Gene B. Woods and E. C. Terry. . . . Doctor Greig's wife told the police that her husband was in an alcoholic stupor when he fired. Dr. H. A. Makinson, Dr. Sydney Smith, and Judge Allen, following an examination of Doctor Greig, found him not insane but so addicted to alcohol that he had lost self-control . . . (San Francisco *Examiner*, August 18, 1929).

J. Q. Heffner, who has been going around the community giving what he calls "chirothesian" treatments, has been arrested, it is reported, and was fined \$100 and given a ten-day sentence in the county jail. The arrest was made as the result of a report made by a local chiropractor, who informed the State Chiropractic Board. The board sent an inspector to investigate the matter, and it was found Heffner was practicing without a license (Montebello *News*, July 26, 1929).

Arrested during the investigation of a nation-wide diploma mill, Dr. Kimi Higashi, forty-six, 111 North Bunker Hill Avenue, faced preliminary hearing today. The specific charge against the Japanese doctor is violation of the felony gun law, which makes the possession of a weapon by a man previously convicted of a felony a penitentiary offense. Higashi was arrested upon information given the police by a Chinese merchant, who says he was approached by the Japanese with a fake medical diploma who offered it for sale. According to the story told by the Chinese, Higashi guaranteed that the owner of the diploma would be able to sell narcotics without being subject to arrest . . . (Los Angeles *Record*, July 30, 1929). Previous entry, September 1929.

According to reports, Elida Salis was on September 4 found guilty of violation of the Medical Practice Act and sentenced to ninety days in the county jail, suspended for two years on condition of no further violations of the Medical Practice Act. She is related to have treated Mexicans with herbs, medicines, etc.; also treated broken arms and legs without any training whatsoever.

W. H. H. Miller has been indicted on the charge of counterfeiting and selling Illinois medical licenses. This is the same Miller who was found guilty and fined for irregularities in examinations and the issuance of licenses while he was director of the State Department of Registration and Education. Before his first trial, Miller's conduct had become so notorious that former Governor Small, tolerant as he was, dismissed him. The purpose of the registration bureau is to protect the public against incompetence and quacks. Instead the department has been used to protect and promote the fortunes of quacks and incompetents, butchers and bunglers operating with official sanction. This consequence, of course, was not foreseen by those who originally sponsored the creation of the department . . . (Editorial, Chicago *Tribune*, August 6, 1929).

Charged with performing an illegal operation upon a minor girl, Dr. Farrar B. Parker, forty-three, and his wife, Mrs. Lillian Parker, a nurse, were arrested yesterday at their home in Long Beach. The pair have been under surveillance since August 19, when an illegal operation is alleged to have been performed upon Irene Schrode, seventeen, of Los Angeles. Doctor Parker denied the charges, but both he and his wife were being held in the city jail last night (Los Angeles *Illustrated Daily News*, August 23, 1929).

Dr. Robert Thompson, central figure in the sensational murder of Eva Swanson, a nurse, here in 1910, may be brought back to San Francisco to complete his unfinished prison sentence for the crime. Paroled from San Quentin after serving twelve years of a twenty-year sentence, Thompson is now serving time in a New York penitentiary on another charge, it was learned today. State parole officials announced they plan to seek his extradition when his term in New York is up. He is charged with violation of parole. Eva Swanson died from the effects of an illegal operation in April 1910. Her body was dissected and buried in the basement of a house at 327 Eureka Street. Doctor Thompson was convicted of second degree murder (San Francisco *Examiner*, August 22, 1929). Robert Thompson was then reported known as Doctor Grant and, according to a recent report from New York, has other aliases.

While attorneys for Dr. Frank P. Westlake, found guilty of the "torso murder" of Laura Mae Sutton, today declared they will seek a new trial, Mrs. Emma Roach, juror, charged she was coerced into voting conviction. She said she had held out thirty-one hours, then submitted to the will of the other eleven, while believing the physician innocent. Westlake, a physician, was convicted for killing Mrs. Sutton for her estate (International News Service dispatch, dated Los Angeles, September 9, printed in the San Francisco *Examiner*, September 10, 1929). Former entry, July 1929.

Typhoid is in its seasonal rise.

Two cases of undulant fever were reported last week.

Two cases of tularemia were recorded during the past month.

Epidemic meningitis is not showing the same reduced prevalence that it showed early in July.